

Legislative Reference Service

THRU WEEK ENDING 4/23/04

NO. 4

CODE ENFORCEMENT

H-8150 STATE BUILDING CODE (Trillo & Long) This act would require mechanical contractors to adhere to Section 23-27.3-113.1 dealing with requirement for building permits. Labor

H-8181 FIRE SAFETY CODE (Trillo & Others) This is a house resolution creating a house oversight commission to monitor the ramifications of the fire safety code. Read & Passed

H-8410 SEWER/DRAINLAYER INSTALLERS (Williamson & Others) This act would establish a licensing procedure for individuals engaged in the installation, repair, alteration or replacement of sewer lines, storm drainage lines or water lines and services. Labor

H-8420 FIRE SAFETY CODE (Landroche & Others) This act would make extensive changes to the state "Fire Safety Code". These changes would incorporate recommendations suggested by the State Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review. Corporations

S-2511 FIRE SAFETY CODE (Polisena & Others) This act would make extensive changes to the state Fire Safety Code. These changes would incorporate recommendations suggested by the State Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2742 SEWER/DRAINLAYER INSTALLERS (Badeau) This act would establish a licensing procedure for individuals engaged in the installation, repair, alteration or replacement of sewer lines, storm drainage lines or water lines and services. Labor

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-8096 MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE (SanBento & Others) This act would provide that communities that have established a salary supplement for teachers obtaining a national board for professional teachers standards certificate shall also provide the same salary to personnel holding a Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Finance

H-8097 MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE (SanBento & Others) This act would provide that any licensed speech-language pathologist who has met the requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and who is employed by a school district, would be entitled to receive an annual salary supplement of \$3,500 in addition to any other compensation to which the employee may be entitled. Finance

H-8106 STANDARDIZED TESTING (Montanaro & Others) This act would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to utilize multiple methods to ensure compliance with teacher assistant qualification requirements of the federal "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001". H.E.W.

H-8107 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS (Menard & Others) This act would enable a child care program to become licensed if in a public school building being utilized as a elementary school. H.E.W.

H-8108 RHODE ISLAND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS BOARD (Smith & Others) This act would amend the composition and the duties of the Rhode Island Certification Standards Board. H.E.W.

H-8109 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES (Handy & Others) This joint resolution would create a 24-member special joint commission, which purpose would be to develop a comprehensive statewide plan that would effectively coordinate information and initiatives, and identify resources, training and educational needs as they pertain to school environmental health and safety issues. H.E.W.

H-8112 PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (Giannini) This act would require a local public school to accept all local children living within that school's radius. H.E.W.

H-8115 TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS (Menard & Others) This act would require all public school districts to transport school children to and from child care facilities located within that school district's boundaries. Corporations

H-8123 SCHOOL BUDGETS (McHugh & Others) This act would provide that the adopted school budget that is submitted to the local appropriating authority would set forth all the items of income and expense on a line item basis, and would disclose, with respect to each item, the variation from the budget from the preceding year. Corporations

H-8155 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (Mumford & Long) This act would provide that, in regard to powers of school committees, no collective bargaining agreement entered into between a municipality and any labor organization would become effective until ratified by the applicable city/town council. Finance

H-8156 SCHOOL BUDGETS (Watson & Long) This act would provide school committees with the right to request arbitration when seeking additional appropriations to the school budget. Finance

H-8180 LITERACY PROGRAMS (Crowley & Shavers) This act would amend what is required in the state literacy programs under the "No Child Left Behind Act". H.E.W.

H-8204 FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE DISABLED (Naughton & Others) This act would allow the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to provide for special grants which it may deem necessary to stimulate special education service arrangements, and establish the level of subsidy that it deems appropriate to continue the operation of any special education service area. Finance

H-8234 SCIENCE EDUCATION (Naughton & Others) This resolution would create a 9-member special house commission which purpose would be to review current science education. H.E.W.

H-8235 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Dennigan & Others) This act would increase physical education curriculum time in grades 1 through 12, and would adopt the Rhode Island Physical Education Standards as curriculum guidelines. H.E.W.

H-8285 STUDENT VISION EXAMINATIONS (Naughton & Others) This act would require the Department of Education to establish a school vision-testing program. Finance

H-8299 INTERNATIONAL OUTSOURCING (Kilmartin & Others) This act would prohibit the state and municipalities from purchasing goods and services that have their origin outside of the United States or are performed outside of the United States. Finance

H-8300 SCIENCE EDUCATION (Slater & Others) This resolution would create a 9-member special legislative commission which purpose would be to review current science education. H.E.W.

H-8313 CHILDREN WITH DIABETES (Savage & Others) This resolution would request the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health to develop rules and regulations to insure that Rhode Island children with diabetes are medically safe in the school setting. H.E.W.

H-8315 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (Murphy & Others) This joint resolution would seek to amend our State Constitution to create a duty for the General Assembly to guarantee an equitable, adequate and meaningful education to each child by requiring the General Assembly to establish and maintain a system of free public schools. H.E.W.

H-8344 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Aubin & Others) This act would require DCYF to investigate concerns of a child's welfare when they are contacted by a school administrator, certified nurse, teacher, school nurse, school psychologist or school social worker. H.E.W.

H-8358 CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA (McNamara & Others) House resolution respectfully requesting provisions to insure that Rhode Island's children with asthma are medically safe in the school setting. H.E.W.

H-8380 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Savage & Others) This act would provide that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health would incorporate into their policies, rules, and regulations pertaining to school health programs, a procedure for addressing an incidence of

hypoglycemia resulting in unconsciousness or seizure, in order to provide for the health and safety of any child who has been medically identified as having diabetes. H.E.W.

H-8416 SCHOOL BUSES (Corvese) This act would prevent school buses from using their strobe lights when the bus is moving. Corporations

S-2502 SCHOOL COMMITTEES: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Breene) This act would provide that, in regard to powers of school committees, no collective bargaining agreement entered into between a municipality and any labor organization would become effective until ratified by the applicable city/town council. Labor

S-2529 GRADES K-3: READING (Perry & Others) This act would provide additional funding to school districts where children in grades K-3 are performing more than 2 years below grade level in reading. Finance

S-2590 STUDENT PERFORMANCE (Gallo & Others) This act would amend the requirements of the Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative. Specifically, the grades, which the strategic plan to improve reading instruction must cover, would be extended to include students in grade 4 and grade 5. Education

S-2594 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES (Gallo & Issa) This act would provide that, if a minor accumulates 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days, the minor is ineligible for driving privileges, and would provide for enforcement, notification, compliance, reinstatement and jurisdiction of this provision. Education

S-2595 INSTRUCTION IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Roberts & Others) This act would increase the physical education time for students in elementary and secondary education, and would require the use of the Rhode Island Physical Education Standards as the guideline. Education

S-2596 SCHOOL BUDGETS (Blais) This act would provide school committees with the right to request arbitration when seeking additional appropriations to the school budget. Education

S-2597 SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEES: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Gallo & Walaska) This act would provide that Rhode Island College, in cooperation with the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, would develop a professional development educational program for Rhode Island school committees. Education

S-2603 TELECOMMUNICATIONS EDUCATION ACCESS FUND (Gallo) This act would levy a surcharge on all wireless telephone accounts. Financial Services, Technology & Regulatory Issues

S-2622 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Gallo & Others) This act would eliminate the restriction that no more than 2 charters be granted in a single school district, and that no more than 4 charters be granted in a district with more than 20,000 students. Education

S-2623 LITERACY PROGRAM (Gallo & Fogarty) This act would amend what is required in the state literacy programs under the “No Child Left Behind Act”. Education

S-2626 PUBLISHED TEXTBOOK LIST (Gallo) This act would require the commissioner of public schools to publish an annual list of textbooks that may be used in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, English/language arts and history/social studies to all students in grades K-12, and would allow a school committee to substitute those textbooks with earlier editions, provided the earlier editions were no more than 3 years older than the edition published on the annual list. Education

S-2643 TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS (Gallo & Walaska) This act would rearrange the regions of the school bus districts whereby a pupil would be provided bus transportation to the school or facility they attend. Finance

S-2658 CHILD OPPORTUNITY ZONE (COZ) FAMILY CENTER FUND (Gibbs & Others) This act would establish a Child Opportunity Zone (COZ) Family Center Fund, and appropriate \$650,000 for the development of existing or new COZ family centers. Finance

S-2669 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Alves & Others) This act would provide that any licensed speech language pathologist who has met the requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and who is employed by a school district, would be entitled to receive an annual salary supplement of \$3,500 in addition to any other compensation to which the employee may be entitled. Education

S-2670 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Alves & McBurney) This act would provide that the communities that have established a salary supplement for teachers obtaining a national board for professional teachers standards certificate shall also provide the same salary to personnel holding a Certificate of Clinical

Competence issued by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Education

S-2671 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS (Roberts & Perry) This act would provide that the educational bill of rights would comply with the federal “Buckley Act” when releasing documents. Education

S-2672 MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS (Blais) This act would require the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a statewide curriculum in mathematics and English language arts to be offered on a voluntary basis to school districts. Education

S-2765 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS (Issa & Others) This act would enable a child care program to become licensed if in a public school building being utilized as a elementary school. Education

S-2767 MIDDLE SCHOOL REFORM ACT (Roberts & Others) This act would require school committees in every city/town to initiate policies to improve the educational performance of its middle schools. Education

S-2807 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would amend the statute relating to operators’ and chauffeurs’ licenses to include school bus drivers’ licenses. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2808 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would amend the statute relating to operators’ and chauffeurs’ licenses by allowing the written test to be administered in Spanish or English, and removing any responsibility of a bus driver or an assistant to administer medication to a child. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2809 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would amend the statute relating to operators’ and chauffeurs’ licenses, and provide for minimum wages for school bus drivers. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2810 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would add school bus drivers to the license requirements under 31-10-1 of the General Laws. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2811 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would add a specific definition for school bus drivers in the motor vehicle code. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2812 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would require DMV, when it issues a school bus driver's license, to indicate the license is restricted to operating school buses and any other vehicle for which a chauffeur's license is not required. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2813 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Badeau) This act would allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to impose restrictions upon a school bus driver's license suitable to the licensee's driving ability. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2891 CIVIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (Gallo) This act would add 6 new members to the Civic Education Commission. Education

S-2925 TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATION (Lanzi) This act would amend the composition and the duties of the Rhode Island Certification Standards Board. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2927 CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (DaPonte & Others) This act would require the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to administer a written examination to prospective principals seeking certification. Education

S-2942 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Alves & Ruggerio) This act would require charter school proposals from public school districts to contain school committee approval. In addition, charter school proposals from non-profit organizations must be authorized by the local city/town funding authority. Education

ELECTIONS

H-8366 BALLOT SECURITY AND STORAGE (Lima & Others) This act would amend provisions of the election laws relating to ballot storage and security. Judiciary

H-8407 COMPENSATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS (Faria & Others) This act would mandate a minimum compensation of \$150 per day for all election officials, supervisors, moderators, clerks, wardens, and any poll workers. Finance

S-2854 VOTING (Lenihan) This act would amend the provisions of the election laws by defining what constitutes a vote. Judiciary

S-2855 RECOUNTS (Lenihan) This act would amend the election laws as they relate to recounts. Judiciary

S-2856 POLL WORKERS (Lenihan) This act would expand the pool of eligible voters qualified to serve as poll workers, as well as provide for the earlier appointment of poll workers thus enabling election officials to better identify those precincts where poll worker shortages exist, and, subsequently, seek and recruit additional persons to fill the vacancies. Judiciary

S-2857 BALLOT SECURITY AND STORAGE (Lenihan) This act would amend provisions of the election laws relating to ballot storage and security. Judiciary

S-2861 LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES (Felag) This act would allow officers and employees of a city/town to serve as members of a local canvassing authority in a city/town where they are not employed. Judiciary

S-2861 As Amended LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES (Felag) This act would allow officers and employees of a city/town to serve as members of a local canvassing authority in a city/town where they are employed. Judiciary

S-2876 POOL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS (Badeau) This act would enable the state board to establish a pool of election officials, and permit persons who shall have attained the age of 16 years of age by election day to serve as election supervisors. Judiciary

ENVIRONMENT

H-8153 CESSPOOL PHASE-OUT (Watson & Long) This act would create a new chapter to phase-out cesspools currently in use in the state. Environment & Natural Resources

H-8196 WETLANDS ALTERATION (Flaherty & Others) This act would provide that all quasi-public agencies shall be subject to the provisions of the general laws pertaining to agricultural functions of the Department of Environmental Management, and would require that an additional public hearing be held in the city/town where the proposed wetland alteration is proposed. Environment & Natural Resources

H-8198 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY (Flaherty & Others) This act would allow towns and cities to designate their municipal conservation commissions as environmental advocates in the areas of surface and ground water pollution and air pollution. Corporations

H-8359 BAYS AND WATERSHEDS (Naughton & Others) This act would establish the Rhode Island Bays and Watersheds Coordination Team to promote multi-state and multi-agency coordination in the management, restoration, protection and development of the state's bays and watersheds. The act would also provide for the establishment of several committees to assist the coordination team in the performance of its duties. Environment & Natural Resources

H-8440 WATERSHED COUNCILS (Naughton & Others) This act would refine the powers and duties relating to the Rhode Island Rivers Council. Finance

S-2630 WETLANDS (McCaffrey & Others) This act would provide that all quasi-public agencies would be subject to the provisions of the general laws pertaining to agricultural functions of the Department of Environmental Management, and would require that an additional public hearing be held in the city/town where the proposed wetland alteration is proposed. Environment & Agriculture

S-2769 CESSPOOL PHASE-OUT (Gibbs) This act would create a new chapter to phase-out cesspools currently in use in the state. Environment & Agriculture

S-2778 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require persons and companies causing bulk chemicals to be transported in this state to have a minimum of 2 years' experience in transporting bulk chemicals, a certificate showing proof of said experience, and to give notice to the local fire department where the chemical is to be delivered. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2789 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (Goodwin & Others) This act would allow the payment by water supply systems owned by municipalities at a reasonable rate of return to the municipality, which rate would be a percentage of the system's annual gross revenues. The rate would be set and approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Financial Services, Technology & Regulatory Issues

S-2869 ENERGY FACILITY SITTING (DaPonte & Others) This act would require that any proposed transmission line for an energy facility which crosses over a significant natural resource or public asset of the state be buried through the affected resource or asset. Environment & Agriculture

S-3026 WATERSHED-BASED MANAGEMENT (Sosnowski & Others) This act would authorize the Director of the Department of Environmental Management to coordinate various governmental agencies and private organizations to insure that watershed management and preservation are optimized. It would also make the Rhode Island Rivers Council an arm of the Water Resources Board instead of the Department of Administration, Division of Planning. Environment & Agriculture

S-3028 WATERSHED-BASED MANAGEMENT (Sosnowski & Others) This act would establish a marine resources development plan to protect and develop the coastal waterways of Rhode Island. Environment & Agriculture

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-8102 HOTEL TAX (Crowley & Others) This act would change the percentages of hotel taxes distributed by the Division of Taxation and the City of Newport. Finance

H-8177 HOTEL TAX (Long) This act would establish a tourism development corporation. This act would also change the distribution amount of hotel tax collected, and would take away the authority to administer the fund from the Department of Environmental Management. Finance

H-8229 TAX SALES (Almeida & Others) This act would require that all taxpayers who are delinquent in their real estate tax obligations receive actual notice of the date and time their property is to be sold at tax sale, as well as a concise and understandable explanation of their rights, obligations and legal options. It would also inform delinquent taxpayers where they could receive housing counseling services, and the availability of loans from the newly established delinquent real estate taxpayers' assistance revolving fund to be administered by Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation. Judiciary

H-8246 LOCAL HOTEL TAX (Ajello & Slater) This act would impose an additional local 1% tax on hotel rooms within the State of Rhode Island. The tax revenue would be distributed to the city/town where the hotel is located. Finance

H-8247 TAX TREATIES (Moura & Others) This act would allow cities and towns to be reimbursed for up to 50% of all municipal taxes that have been exempted by a tax treaty in which the Economic Development Corporation is a participant. Finance

H-8248 REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX (Moura & Slater) This act would increase the real estate conveyance tax on a sliding scale basis. Finance

H-8262 MUNICIPAL TAX LIEN CERTIFICATES (Slater) This act would require closing attorneys or officers conducting a conveyance of real property to collect and remit to the appropriate municipality or fire district the full amount of every tax or assessment itemized in the lien certificate. Judiciary

H-8265 TAX SALES (Slater) This act would allow for the foreclosure of tax title for abandoned unimproved land. Judiciary

H-8318 EDUCATION EQUALITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Fox & Others) This act would provide for education funding equity and property tax relief. Finance

H-8418 LOCAL MEALS AND BEVERAGE TAX (Landroche & Kilmartin) This act would exempt sales from vending machines from the local meals and beverage tax. Finance

H-8442 TAX CREDITS: MFAR ZONES (Fox & Others) This act would establish a military facility redevelopment zone tax credit to encourage the development of jobs on former military facility properties, and also in business parks which contain a majority of military or defense industry related businesses. Finance

S-2524 VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS (Connors & Others) This act would provide for a property tax exemption for persons who have served in the military or naval service for 15 years or more. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2528 SCHOOL AID (Fogarty & Others) This act would provide a bonus in state aid to local education for those schools which achieve and attain above average standards, pursuant to the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001". Finance

S-2534 REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX: CONSERVATION (Perry & Others) This act would change the composition of the Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Board membership, and would require \$5,000,000 from the state's share of the real estate conveyance tax to be allocated to the Conservation Trust Fund. Finance

S-2650 SCHOOL AID (Raptakis & Others) This act would provide that, in determining local school aid, the state would annually provide each community no less than an amount equal to the aid given in the preceding fiscal year. Finance

S-2654 STATE PROPERTY TAX (Alves & Others) This act would establish a state property tax for the purpose of providing equal per pupil funding to every city/town. Finance

S-2722 HOTEL TAX (Blais & Breene) This act would establish a tourism development corporation, and would also change the distribution amount of the hotel tax. Finance

S-2729 TAX TREATIES (Caprio & Others) This act would allow cities/towns to be reimbursed for up to 50% of all municipal taxes that have been exempted by a tax treaty in which the Economic Development Corporation is a participant. Finance

S-2730 MOTOR VEHICLES EXCISE TAX (McCaffrey) This act would establish the methodology for determining the presumptive value of motor vehicles subject to the excise tax of December 31, 2004. Finance

S-2733 TAX TREATIES (Pichardo & Others) This act would allow cities/towns to be reimbursed for up to 50% of all municipal taxes that have been exempted by a tax treaty in which the Economic Development Corporation is a participant. Finance

S-2741 TAX SALES (Pichardo & Others) This act would allow the foreclosure of tax title for abandoned unimproved land. Judiciary

S-2756 REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX (Goodwin & Ruggerio) This act would increase the real estate conveyance tax on a sliding scale basis. Finance

S-2793 LOCAL HOTEL TAX (Pichardo & Others) This act would impose an additional local 1% tax on hotel rooms within the State of Rhode Island. The tax revenue would be distributed to the city/town where the hotel is located. Finance

S-2852 TAX SALES: INFORMED NOTICE (Pichardo & Others) This act would require that all taxpayers who are delinquent in their real estate tax obligations receive actual notice of date and time their property is to be sold at tax sale, as well as a concise and understandable explanation of their rights, obligations and legal options. Judiciary

S-2892 PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD (DaPonte & Others) This act would provide for a change of date for submission of the annual report by the Public Finance Management Board from September 30th to March 31st, utilizing information from the previous fiscal year. Finance

S-2908 GAMING LICENSE TRANSFER ACT: SCHOOL AID (Celona) This act would require 10% transfer fee for gaming license transfers. Monies collected must be distributed to cities and towns for school aid. Finance

LABOR RELATIONS

H-8059 TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LIEN LAW (Reilly & Others) This act would create a lien to protect licensed temporary employment agencies and licensed employee leasing agencies who have provided labor or labor services to businesses. Labor

H-8061 FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION (Montanaro & Others) This act would require that the rights or benefits conferred on employees by an expiring collective bargaining agreement would continue until a new agreement is ratified. Labor

H-8062 UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES (Montanaro & Others) This act would broaden the jurisdiction of the Labor Relations Board to consider and address unfair labor practices that have also been filed as grievances under a collective bargaining agreement. Labor

H-8160 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (Trillo & Long) This act would prohibit a collective bargaining agreement covering state employees, public school teachers, or employees of any city/town from limiting health care benefits from a specific provider. Labor

S-2780 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require any contractor who is awarded a public works contract after July 1, 2004, to ascertain the prevailing wage rate and make the necessary adjustments. Labor

S-2783 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT ACT (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow a public entity to use a project labor agreement on a public works project. Labor

LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES

H-8183 CLASS B LIQUOR LICENSES (Carter & Scott) This act would change the license fee for limited Class B alcoholic beverage licenses from \$1,500 per year to a range of \$400 to \$2,000. Corporations

H-8255 LAUNDRY PERMITS (Ajello) This act would increase the licensing fee for laundries to \$100. Corporations

H-8257 PAWNBROKERS (Costantino & Others) This act would increase the fee for pawnbrokers' licenses from \$50 to \$200. Corporations

H-8396 SUNDAY BUSINESS (Smith) This act would permit furniture stores to open one hour earlier, at 11:00 a.m., on Sundays and holidays. Corporations

S-2554 LICENSING OF CHAIN STORES (Goodwin) This act would clarify and expand the law that defines retail chain and franchise liquor stores. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2752 PAWNBROKERS (Caprio & Others) This act would increase the fee for pawnbrokers' licenses from \$50 to \$200. Financial Services, Technology & Regulatory Issues

S-2758 RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES (McCaffrey) This act would require that holders of Classes B, C, D, E, J, and N licenses comply with alcohol server training regulations. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2833 LIQUOR LICENSE FEES (Felag & Others) This act would change the fee for a Class A, B, B-H, and E retailer's license from a single dollar amount to a range of dollar amounts. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2840 LAUNDRY PERMITS (Perry & Others) This act would increase the licensing fee for laundries to \$100. Finance

S-2888 CLASS B LIQUOR LICENSE (DaPonte & Others) This act would allow a patron of a restaurant with a Class B liquor license to remove partially consumed table wine from the establishment. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2926 SUNDAY BUSINESS (DaPonte & Others) This act would repeal the provision providing for pharmacies to be open on December 25th or Thanksgiving day. Labor

PLANNING AND ZONING

H-8114 ZONING ORDINANCES (Coderre & Others) This act would prohibit cities and towns from enacting or enforcing any ordinances or bylaws that would prohibit or require a special permit for

the use of land or structures, or the expansion of existing structures, for the primary, accessory or incidental purpose of operating a childcare facility. Corporations

H-8119 ZONING ORDINANCES (Coderre & Others) This act would amend the definition of “Family Day Care Home”, and provide a definition for “Family Group Day Care Home” as they pertain to municipal zoning ordinances. Corporations

H-8186 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (Naughton & Others) This act would mandate that the Economic Development Corporation develop a master plan subject to local approval if land use action is planned at the perimeter of state airports. Corporations

H-8226 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (McHugh & Petrarca) This act would grant a town/city with an existing housing authority the power to require that applicants, seeking to build low/moderate income housing, meet all local zoning ordinances, provided such applications were submitted after the establishment of local housing authority. Corporations

H-8327 ZONING ORDINANCES: SUBSTANDARD LOTS OF RECORD (Ginaitt) This act would add “environmental sensitivity” as an additional element for the merger of substandard lots. Corporations

H-8328 ZONING ORDINANCES: VARIANCES (Ginaitt) This act would amend town and city zoning ordinances concerning variances. Corporations

S-2522 STATE AIRPORTS: LOCAL APPROVAL (McCaffrey & Others) This act would mandate that the Economic Development Corporation develop a master plan subject to local approval if land use action is planned at the perimeter of state airports. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2617 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Breene) This act would create a moratorium up to one year on low and moderate income housing applications by private, for-profit applicants. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2631 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Sosnowski) This act would grant a town/city with an existing housing authority the power to require that applicants, seeking to build low/moderate income housing, meet all local zoning ordinances, provided such applications were submitted after the establishment of the local housing authority. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2673 ZONING ORDINANCES (Issa) This act would prohibit cities/towns from enacting or enforcing any ordinances or bylaws that would prohibit or require a special permit for the use of land or structures, or the expansion of existing structures, for the primary, accessory or incidental purpose of operating a childcare facility. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2676 PARKING AREAS (Gibbs & Others) This act would clarify the term “parking areas” within the standard provisions section of the zoning ordinances chapter. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2831 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Felag & Others) This act would define the term “affordable housing”. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2960 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Fogarty & Others) This act would require all developers of proposed low/moderate income housing to comply with local regulations, and to file an impact statement with their proposals. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-8056 RHODE ISLAND JUSTICE COMMISSION (Palumbo) This act would make changes in the composition of the Rhode Island Justice Commission, the Criminal Justice Policy Board, and the Criminal Justice Oversight Committee. Judiciary

H-8116 LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATES (Slater & Others) This act would require law enforcement candidates to have 2 years of military experience or an associate's degree from an accredited college or university. Corporations

H-8125 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY UNDERAGED PERSONS (Malik & Others) This act would clarify the criminal law and penalties for furnishing and procuring alcohol for underage persons. Corporations

H-8141 INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (Trillo & Long) This act would provide law enforcement officials with the authority to obtain noncontent information from internet service providers, pursuant to an administrative subpoena authorized by a chief of police, superintendent of state police, or the director of the statewide fugitive task force, that is needed to investigate or prosecute a crime. Judiciary

H-8144 ACCIDENT REPORTS (Long & Moffitt) This act would increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the threshold amount of damage without personal injury that would be subject to the reporting requirements of 31-26-9 of the General Laws. Judiciary

H-8152 LIE DETECTOR TESTS (Trillo & Others) This act would allow lie detector tests to be administered by law enforcement agencies to persons applying for employment as law enforcement officers or to other individuals in connection with criminal investigations conducted by law enforcement officers. Labor

H-8213 FIREFIGHTER PLATES (Lowe) This act would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue "firefighter" motor vehicle registration plates. Corporations

H-8221 RACIAL PROFILE PREVENTION (Almeida & Others) This act would place a ban on racial profiling in traffic stops by state and municipal law enforcement agencies, and would set up a system requiring law enforcement agencies to collect data and complete regular reports of findings and statistics regarding traffic stops. Judiciary

H-8224 TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS (Mumford & Others) This act would establish use of traffic control monitoring systems on state highways and be known as the "Rhode Island Red Light Running Act of 2004". Judiciary

H-8256 TOW TRUCK OPERATORS (Costantino & Others) This act would require certificated tow truck operators to give local police departments notice of the towing of an abandoned or unattended vehicle within 2 hours of the towing of the vehicle. Corporations

H-8263 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (Moura & DeSimone) This act provides that local police departments would not be responsible for the cost associated with conducting background checks. Judiciary

H-8329 EXPLOSIVES (Ginaitt) This act would amend the definitions of explosives, and repeal sections relating to the classification of explosives, storage of explosives on land, the distance a magazine must be kept from the nearest building, railway or highway, standards for a magazine, transportation of explosives, packaging and handling provisions of explosives, inspection requirements on owners transporting explosives or fire extinguishers, and drivers of vehicles transporting blasting agents. Corporations

H-8338 SEARCH WARRANTS (Brien & Others) This act would authorize the use of search warrants to obtain items, samples, exemplars, including, but not limited to, bodily tissue, fluids or other bodily substances from the body of a person. Judiciary

H-8347 WEAPONS (Brien) This act would permit suspension of any license or permit by the granting authority. Judiciary

S-2513 BIOTERRORISM (Tassoni & Others) This act would establish a vaccine program for first responders to acts of bioterrorism. Health & Human Services

S-2515 TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (Tassoni & Others) This act would prohibit the sale and use of traffic control signal preemption devices in the state, except for certain authorities. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2569 RACIAL PROFILE PREVENTION (Perry & Others) This act would place a ban on racial profiling in traffic stops by state and municipal law enforcement agencies, and would set up a system requiring law enforcement agencies to collect data and complete regular reports of findings and statistics regarding traffic stops. Judiciary

S-2571 PROTECTIVE ORDERS (Goodwin & Others) This act would give the district court the authority to order defendants to relinquish all firearms, and not to purchase any during the term of a protective order. A fee may be charged for storage of a firearm. It would provide for modification of the order, and would also impose a time limit within which the firearms may be retrieved. Judiciary

S-2577 SCHOOLS: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Gibbs & Others) This act would expand the safety zones within which one can be punished by imprisonment or fine for distributing or manufacturing a controlled substance or for possession of a firearm in or near school grounds. Judiciary

S-2636 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK (Roberts & Others) This act would provide that an employer of a child care facility be informed in writing by the state police or local police department of any disqualifying information of an applicant seeking employment. Health & Human Services

S-2664 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: PUBLIC HOUSING (McBurney & Polisena) This act would punish persons distributing controlled substances on grounds of public housing projects. Judiciary

S-2666 ACCIDENT REPORTS (Algieri) This act would increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the threshold amount of damage without personal injury that would be subject to reporting requirements of 31-26-9 of the General Laws. Judiciary

S-2691 EXPLOSIVES (Lanzi & Gallo) This act would require licensed blasters to provide a blasting plan to the state fire marshal upon request, and would allow for on-site seismic readings. The act would also increase blasting permit bonds to \$1,000,000. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2723 MUNICIPAL TRAINING ACADEMY (McBurney) This act would mandate that trainees of the state police and municipal training academy be compensated for death, disability, or injury incurred while in training. Finance

S-2791 TOWING STORAGE ACT (Goodwin & Others) This act would require certificated tow truck operators to give local police departments notice of the towing of an abandoned or unattended vehicle within 2 hours of the towing of the vehicle. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2828 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEMS (Polisena) This act would establish use of traffic control monitoring systems on state highways, and be known as the “Rhode Island Red Light Running Act of 2004”. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2832 FIREFIGHTER PLATES (Sosnowski & Others) This act would create firefighter license plates. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2853 SEARCH WARRANTS (Montalbano & Others) This act would authorize the use of search warrants to obtain items, samples, exemplars, including, but not limited to, bodily tissue, fluids or other bodily substances from the body of a person. Judiciary

S-2860 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: MINORS (Felag & Others) This act would clarify the criminal law and penalties for furnishing and procuring alcohol for underage persons. Judiciary

S-2874 WEAPONS (McCaffrey) This act would criminalize the unlawful discharge of a firearm on school grounds if the discharge creates a substantial risk of death or serious personal injury to another person. Judiciary

S-2898 VIDEO VOYEURISM (DaPonte & Others) This act would define video voyeurism, and impose fines and/or penalties for a person found guilty of this offense. Judiciary

S-2899 LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING (Pichardo & Others) This act would enact a comprehensive revision of law enforcement standards and training to promote and foster professionalism. Judiciary

S-2900 LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (Pichardo & Others) This act would create a commission within the executive department to act as the accreditation authority for Rhode Island law enforcement agencies. Judiciary

S-2902 VIDEO VOYEURISM (DaPonte & Others) This act would define video voyeurism, and impose fines and/or penalties for a person found guilty of this offense. Judiciary

S-2907 POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS: IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY (Sheehan & Others) This act would extend civil immunity granted to firefighters, police officers, investigators of the Department of Attorney General, and others to include acts or omissions resulting in property damage which occur when they are rendering emergency care. Judiciary

S-2921 DNA DETECTION (Damiani & Others) This act would extend the applicability of the “DNA detection of felony offender” chapter to include offenders convicted of any felony. Judiciary

S-2932 WEAPONS (Damiani & Others) This act would permit suspension of any license or permit by the granting authority. Judiciary

S-2933 CAMPUS SECURITY (Damiani & Others) This act would allow appointed campus police officers to carry weapons while on duty, as well as, execute arrest warrants and search warrants in the course of their official duties. Judiciary

S-2946 WEAPONS (Polisena & Others) This act would provide that a person, possessing a license or permit for a concealed pistol or revolver issued by another state which grants Rhode Island residents reciprocity with respect to concealed pistol permits, would be considered to have a valid concealed pistol permit in Rhode Island. Judiciary

S-2950 ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMICAL TEST (Polisena & Others) This act would establish the procedures for the administration of a chemical test to determine the amount of alcohol or presence of a controlled substance in an individual who refuses to consent to the test. Judiciary

S-3017 WEAPONS (Damiani & Polisena) This act would make it possible to transport pistols or revolvers within the state as long as the ammunition is transported in a different location within the vehicle not readily accessible from the passenger compartment. Judiciary

S-3018 IDENTIFICATION ON FIREARMS (Damiani & Polisena) This act would exempt collectible and antique weapons from the prohibition against changing, altering or otherwise obliterating the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number or other mark of identification on any firearm. Judiciary

S-3045 LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATES (Sosnowski) This act would require a minimum of 60 credit hours from an accredited college or university and/or 2 years equivalent experience in law enforcement or the military as a prerequisite for enrollment in the state or municipal police training academy. Judiciary

RETIREMENT

H-8066 RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (Montanaro & Others) This act would require municipalities to contribute the minimum amount actuarially required into the retirement system. Labor

H-8087 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (McCauley) This act would permit members in the state retirement system who have retired from municipal employment to obtain post-retirement employment with the state without a suspension of retirement benefits. Finance

H-8207 SERVICE RETIREMENT: CETA (Flaherty & Others) This act would not count the purchase of service credit for time served as an employee of this state while under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) toward the five-year limit for the purchase of service credits. Finance

H-8368 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Anguilla) This act would raise the amount of part-time gross pay retired professors and teachers may earn from employment by a state educational institution from \$12,000 to \$18,000. Finance

H-8370 COMPOSITION OF RETIREMENT BOARD (Faria) This act would allow 1 retired teacher to be elected by retired teachers in the system; 1 retired state employee to be elected by retired state employees in the system; 1 retired municipal employee to be elected by the retired municipal workers in the system. Finance

H-8388 PENSION OFFSET (Shavers & Cerra) This resolution memorializes Congress to support the repeal of the government pension offset and the windfall elimination provision. Finance

H-8394 PENSION REVOCATION (Gorham & Others) This act would repeal that portion of the “Rhode Island Public Employee Pension Revocation and Reduction Act” which permits the superior court to consider the financial needs and resources of innocent spouses, dependants and designated beneficiaries of a public official whose state pension has been revoked or reduced pursuant to said law. Judiciary

S-2533 POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Connors) This act would include all regular and permanent rescue service personnel of any city, town or fire district within the framework of the optional retirement system that is presently limited to police officers and firefighters. Finance

S-2609 PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS: MILITARY SERVICE (Fogarty & Others) This act would extend the period that the pension contributions for state, city or town employees shall be paid by the employer to a maximum of 5 years. Finance

S-2709 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Issa) This act would raise the amount of part-time gross pay retired professors and teachers may earn from employment by a state educational institution from \$12,000 to \$18,000. Finance

S-2732 POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Badeau) This act would permit members in the state retirement system who have retired from municipal employment to obtain post-retirement employment with the state without a suspension of retirement benefits. Finance

S-2914 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (DaPonte) This act would repeal the law that established the procedure by which municipalities could withdraw from the state retirement system. Finance

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-8139 MARKETABLE RECORD TITLE (Moffitt) This act would include eminent domain or condemnation proceedings within the “Marketable Record Title Act”. Judiciary

H-8264 PROBATE FEES (Slater) This act would increase probate court fees. Judiciary

S-2574 PROBATE: NOTICE REQUIREMENT (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would extend the notice requirement of a devise or bequest to a corporation or association from 30 to 90 days, and would require that the executor or administrator mail written notice to a devisee or legatee. Judiciary

S-2583 SAME SEX MARRIAGES (Polisena & Others) This act would prohibit all same sex marriages in Rhode Island, and would refuse to recognize, for any purposes, same sex marriages legalized in other jurisdictions. Judiciary

S-2663 SAME SEX MARRIAGES (Blais) This act would prohibit same sex marriages in the state, and would prohibit the state from recognizing a relationship between persons of the same sex as a marriage. Judiciary

S-2705 PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY (Perry & Others) This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage. Judiciary

S-2721 HISTORICAL RECORDS TRUST (Issa & Paiva-Weed) This act would more specifically direct the expenditure of funds collected through the \$2.00 state archives recording tax. Finance

S-2792 PROBATE FEES (Caprio & Others) This act would increase probate court fees. Judiciary

MISCELLANEOUS

H-8054 ENERGY FACILITY SITING (Moura & Others) This act would permit a civil action in Superior Court for the delay in filing applications for approvals for modifying, upgrading, or relocating transmission lines. Judiciary

H-8064 PREVAILING WAGE (Montanaro & Others) This act would allow the Department of Attorney General to investigate and enforce actions pursuant to allegations of noncompliance with prevailing wage. Labor

H-8148 PUBLIC EXPENSE BURIALS (Moffitt) This act would make amendments to the “Public Assistance Act” to clarify the process to provide burial for the unclaimed bodies of persons who may die in the state. Finance

H-8233 URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE (Dennigan & Others) This act would change the reporting date of the Urban Infrastructure Commission to no later than December 31, 2004. Finance

H-8317 OPEN CONTRACTING ACT (Reilly & Tejada) This act would prohibit certain contract specifications issued by public bodies soliciting bids on public works projects. Finance

H-8319 REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (DeSimone & Others) This act would add areas with hazardous materials to the definition of what constitutes a “blighted and substandard area” for purposes of the “Redevelopment Act of 1956”. Corporations

H-8369 HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD (Coderre & Others) This act would change the composition of the Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Board. This act would also appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 annually for the Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. Finance

H-8392 WORKPLACE SAFETY (Fox & Others) This act would create the “Public Health and Workplace Safety Act”. Labor

S-2567 PUBLIC RECORDS (Connors & Others) This act would allow the Attorney General to initiate a complaint on behalf of the public interest pursuant to the inspection of a record of a public body. Judiciary

S-2591 ANIMAL ABUSE (Perry & Others) This act would define and provide penalties for various acts of animal abuse, cruelty and neglect, and would create a cause of action for the intentional or negligent death of a pet. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2628 DEER HUNTING (Breene & Others) This act repeals the section of the General Laws (20-15-6) which allows local authorities to prohibit deer hunting by city/town ordinance. Environment & Agriculture

S-2633 MUNICIPAL PURCHASING (Gallo) This act would provide for the exclusion of multi-cities or towns telecommunications aggregation programs. The provisions of this chapter would not apply to entities organized for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of telecommunications and Internet services, or communication-related services. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2649 PUBLIC EXPENSE BURIALS (Gibbs) This act would make amendments to the “Public Assistance Act” to clarify the process to provide burial for the unclaimed bodies of persons who may die in the state. Finance

S-2667 CODE OF ETHICS (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would reduce the number of persons who are required to file financial statements with the Ethics Commission. Judiciary

S-2700 TORT LAW (Blais) This act would codify the traditional tort law rule by providing that the same rules that would apply to legal claims by issuing persons would also apply to the government when it seeks to recover for a related indirect economic loss. Judiciary

S-2704 LANDLORD AND TENANT (McCaffrey) This act would allow for eviction of residential tenants due to noncompliance with federal law or regulation, or a federally mandated lease provision. Judiciary

S-2728 ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (Pichardo & Others) This act would provide an income tax credit for business use within a designated project area to be determined by a city/town council of each municipality. A designated project area is an area that qualifies as a blighted area. Finance

S-2763 HEALTH INSURANCE (Roberts) This act would create a Health Purchasing Board to enable the State of Rhode Island to become a more prudent purchaser of health insurance. Health & Human Services

S-2774 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require that additional information relative to employment options and benefits be included in a city's/town's adoption of a project plan. Labor

S-2777 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would clarify which calls for bids would contain a provision stating the minimum wages to be paid to various types of employees. Labor

S-2779 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would establish bidding requirements for contractors bidding on public works contracts. Labor

S-2785 PUBLIC WORKS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would expand the definition of public works to include construction work where payment is rendered with money or the equivalent thereof, including, but not limited to, tax credits, financing, incentives, or the transfer of property for less than fair market value by the state, any political subdivision, public agency or quasi-public agency directly to or on behalf of any private entity for \$500,000 or more, with certain defined exceptions. Labor

S-2909 AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNAS (Celona) This act would prohibit cities and towns from enacting ordinances, which restrict the placement, screening and height of amateur radio antennas in violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rulings and regulations. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2929 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES IN FEDERAL SERVICE (Damiani & Others) This act would require cities and towns to continue to pay employees who enter military service, and continue to provide medical benefits. An offset would be allowed the city/town for military service pay received by the employee. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government